

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-21, 23, and 24 are pending, with claim 1 being independent. By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite a pre-impregnated composite including a matrix of fiberglass bundles and epoxy resin that occupies open spaces in the matrix of fiberglass bundles, the pre-impregnated composite continuously covering a circumferential surface of the at least one MOV disk, as shown in the application at, for example, page 6, lines 4-7. In addition, claims 4, 6, and 14-16 have been amended in view of the amendment to claim 1; claims 10, and 11 have been amended for clarity; and claims 3 and 22 have been cancelled without waiver or prejudice. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 7, 8, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. With respect to claims 7 and 8, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because units for the warp count of claim 7 and the fill count of claim 8 would be clear to one of skill in the art without the units being mentioned explicitly. As would be known by one of skill in the art, units of "fibers per inch" typically are associated with warp count and fill count.

With respect to claims 11 and 12, applicants have amended claim 11 to obviate the rejection. Specifically, claim 11 has been amended to clarify the term "E-glass 450." As no reason was presented for the rejection of claim 12, and since claim 10 recites a feature similar to the one found objectionable in claim 11, applicant believes that the rejection was meant to address claim 10 instead of claim 12, and has amended claim 10 accordingly.

For at least these reasons, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7, 8, 11, and 12.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13-18, and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kester (U.S. Patent No. 6,008,975). Applicants have amended claim 1 to obviate this rejection.

As amended, claim 1 recites a station class surge arrester that includes a module assembly including at least one metal oxide varistor (MOV) disk. A pre-impregnated composite that includes a matrix of fiberglass bundles and epoxy resin that occupies open spaces in the matrix of fiberglass bundles continuously covers a circumferential surface of the at least one MOV disk.

The pre-impregnated composite is capable of withstanding an 80 kA fault current for 12 time cycles. The station class surge arrester also includes contacts on opposite ends of the module assembly with which the module assembly is connected to electrical equipment to be protected and to electrical ground.

Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because Kester fails to describe or suggest a pre-impregnated composite including a matrix of fiberglass bundles and epoxy resin that occupies open spaces in the matrix of fiberglass bundles, with the composite continuously covering a circumferential surface of the at least one MOV disk, as recited in amended claim 1. Furthermore, Kester does not describe or suggest a pre-impregnated composite that is capable of withstanding an 80 kA fault current for 12 time cycles, as also recited in amended claim 1.

Kester describes a distribution-class surge arrester. The surge arrester includes one or more MOV disks around which alternating layers of discrete strips of fiberglass tape and resin have been applied. The tape segments are "resin impregnated fiberglass tape comprised of multiple fiberglass strands or bundles of strands that are arranged side by side in parallel rows and retained in that parallel relationship by the B-stage thermosetting resin that is pre-impregnated or embedded within and surrounding the bundles." (Kester, col. 6, lines 34-40.) For example, "four segments of tape are applied over inner base 22 in a spaced-apart configuration in respective quadrants about the periphery of array 20 so as to provide untapped, longitudinally aligned gaps 59." (Kester, col. 6, lines 44-47.) A second layer of discrete tape segments is spiral wrapped on top of the four tape segments. (Kester, col. 6, lines 50-52.) As a result, "polygonal regions 29 that are comprised entirely of resin layers 22, 25-27 and are free from fibrous tapes 24 or 28" are formed. (Kester, col. 6, lines 64-66.) The polygonal regions represent spaces between the discrete tape segments that have been attached to the MOV disks.

Thus, Kester does not describe or suggest a pre-impregnated composite matrix of fiberglass bundles and epoxy resin that continuously covers a circumferential surface of the one or more MOV disks.

Kester's a surge arrester is capable of withstanding two 100 kA impulse currents. (Kester, col. 9, lines 46-62.) Impulse currents are currents that persist for an extremely short amount of time that is far shorter than a time cycle. Therefore, while the surge arrester of Kester is capable

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of withstanding a 100kA impulse current for far less than a time cycle, Kester nowhere describes a station class surge arrester that is capable of withstanding an 80 kA current, which is of the same order of magnitude as the 100 kA current of Kester, for 12 time cycles.

For at least these reasons, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims.

Claim 1, 23, and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kester. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.


Claims 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kester in view of Nedriga (U.S. Patent No. 5,047,891). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because Nedriga does not remedy the failure of Kester to describe or suggest the features of amended claim 1.

Claims 6-9, 12-19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kester in view of Nedriga, and further in view of Porter (U.S. Patent No. 5,763,043). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because Porter does not remedy the failure of Kester and Nedriga to describe or suggest the features of amended claim 1.

No fees are believed to be due. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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